

The Old Brick Church
Cedar Grove, Kanawha County, West Virginia.

HABS No. WVa. 21-12

HABS
W.VA,

20-CEGRO,

1-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of West Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey
Herbert S. Kyle, District Officer
1107 Union Bldg., Charleston, W.Va.

THE OLD BRICK CHURCH
Cedar Grove, Kanawha County, West Virginia

20 CEGRO

Owner Methodist Episcopal Church, South,
Cedar Grove Circuit.

Date of Erection 1853.

Builder William Tompkins.

Present Condition Badly in need of repair. An
addition was made to the south
end in 1883. A cupola was added in 1902.

Number of Stories. One

Materials of Construction Foundation walls are of native stone.
Exterior walls are of brick which
were burned at the site. The brick pattern in the
frieze of the cornice is interesting. The header
of the opening for the original front door is a true
arch. The windows in the side walls have the pointed
arch. The floor and roof construction is wood frame.
The windows are typical sliding sash frame, although
the top or pointed sash is stationary. Frame has
parting strip between the guides for each of the
three sash. The roof is slate. There is a hard
wood puncheon floor of random width boards. The
pews were made at Covington, Kentucky, and appear
to be machine made. A circular platform of 7" rise
serves as the chancel. The glass was hauled from
Richmond, Virginia.

Other Existing Records Records of the Tompson Family,
Cedar Grove, W. Va.

Additional Data Always known as "The Brick Church".
Built by William Tompkins at the
mouth of Kelly's Creek in 1853. It is situated
in a grove of trees on land once owned by Walter
Kelly, the first white settler in the Kanawha
Valley (1772). "The Mouth of Kelly's Creek" was a
community center of the day, and the church is
surrounded by the graves of some of the oldest
citizens of the valley. It was built mostly by
slave labor. It was dedicated in 1854, Rev.
Stephen H. Vaught officiating. It was Methodist,
but not deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church
South until 1901. The church was a family owned
building until that time.

After a lapse of eight or ten years without service, the church was reorganized and remodeled in 1908. It is again being neglected and is in need of immediate attention.

The building was used as a temporary hospital during the Civil War. Mrs. Tompkins had a letter from General U. S. Grant, her nephew, which protected her home and the church from depredations of Union Troops during the War, though she had a son, Charles, who was in the Confederate service. President Grant visited here in 1873.

William Tompkins was the first manufacturer of salt using the natural gas process.

Information furnished by Forrest Hull,
Member of the Board of Trustees of
The Old Brick Church.
Laidley's History of Kanawha County-
p 237.

Theresa M. Mathes

Approved

Robert T. [Signature]
District Officer.

June 25, 1936.

Reviewed July 31, 1936 - mcl